

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please update the “RELATED APPLICATIONS” section on page 1 of the specification to reflect the prior application data submitted on September 15, 2003, in the transmittal letter accompanying the application. The priority claim was recognized by the Office as shown by its inclusion on the (first) Filing Receipt dated February 10, 2004.

Please replace the first sentence of the specification with the following text:

--

The present application is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/258,547, filed October 25, 2002, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/199,389, filed April 25, 2000, and is a the national phase application of application No. PCT/US01/13336, filed April 25, 2001, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/199,389, filed April 25, 2000, both of which applications are incorporated herein.

--

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 29-36 of the specification with the following paragraph:

--

In another embodiment, the matrix has a viscosity between 100 and 50,000 Cp. The at least one linear random copolymer has a molecular weight between 100,000 and 5,000,000 Daltons. In a preferred embodiment the copolymer comprises a buffer having a basic pH. Preferably, the buffer comprises about 89 mM Tris, 89 mM borate, and 2 mM EDTA. In a preferred embodiment, the buffer has a pH of at least about 8 and preferably from about pH 8 to pH 8.3.

--